Plan to check soil erosion along the Banks of Brahmaputra

3025. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to prevent soil erosion along the banks of Brahmaputra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent so far or proposed to be spent for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) Anti-erosion schemes on the river Brahmaputra have been undertaken by the Govt. of Assam since 1954 following the historic erosion of Dibrugarh Town. Since then, several major and minor anti-erosion schemes have been undertakne along the 640 km. reach encompassing areas like Majuli, Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Sonarighat, Mukalmua, Gumi, Palasbari, Goalpara, Mariahola, and Hathala. The expenditure incurred upto March 1994 is about Rs. 484 crore. Execution of anti-erosion schemes is a continuing process and the schemes are executed depending on the severity of erosion in a specific area and in accordance with the resources available at the disposal of the State Government.

Indians settled abroad

3026. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries in which Indians are settled; and

(b) the steps taken to safeguard their interests?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) There would hardly be any country in the world where at least some persons of Indian origin may not be settled. As regards measures being taken by the Government of India to safeguard their interests we expect them to abide by the rules, regulations and aspirations of the country of their domicile. However, the Government of India encourages them to also maintain cordial links, specially in respect of the cultural heritage of their mother country, India.

(b) The Indian Missions abroad remain fully committed to serve the interests of our nationals in particular and of all the Indian origin persons settled abroad in general.

Flood control in Assam

3027. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether flood management in Assam was one of the major concerns for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, apart from giving Rs. 25 crores to the Assam Government what efforts have Government made in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for efficient flood managemen tin Assam and other States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central loan assistance of Rs. 100 crore with moratorium toward recovery of interest and loan charges during the last two years of the 8th Plan has been released to the Government of Assam. Further, for the year 1996-97, a grant of Rs. 25 crore has been earmarked for reimbursement against executed schemes out of which an advance of Rs. 5 crore has been released so far.

The Brahmaputra Board has prepared Master Plans for Flood Management in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys. These Master Plans have been sent to the Government of Assam and the North-eastern States for implementation of individual schemes by the States as per their priorities.

बिहार की रादू सिंचाई परियोजना

3028. श्री ज्ञन रंजन: क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार सरकार ने रांची जिले में रादू सिंचाई परियोजना का सर्वेक्षण कार्य पूरा करने के बाद अपनी रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय जल आयोग को स्वीकृति हेतु भेजी है;